

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An information playback apparatus for playing back a recording medium on which image information is recorded, comprising:

first fetching means for fetching identification information used for identification of a recording medium;

second fetching means for fetching a permission condition for permitting playback of the image information recorded on a recording medium;

storage means for storing the identification information fetched by said first fetching means and the permission condition fetched by said second fetching means;

extraction means for extracting the identification information recorded on a recording medium loaded in said information playback apparatus;

first comparison means for comparing the identification information extracted by said extraction means and the identification information stored in said storage means with each other;

third fetching means for fetching a permission condition when the identification information extracted by said extraction means and the identification

information stored in said storage means coincide with each other;

second comparison means for comparing the permission condition fetched by said third fetching means and the permission condition stored in said storage means with each other; and

control means for controlling playback of the image information recorded on the recording medium in response to a result of the comparison by said second comparison means.

2. An information playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the permission condition includes a password.

3. An information playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the permission condition includes a parental level.

4. An information playback method for an information playback apparatus which plays back a recording medium on which image information is recorded, comprising:

a first fetching step of fetching identification information used for identification of a recording medium;

a second fetching step of fetching a permission

condition for permitting playback of the image  
information recorded on a recording medium;

a storage control step of controlling storage of  
the identification information fetched by the processing  
in the first fetching step and the permission condition  
fetched by the processing in the second fetching step;

an extraction step of extracting the identification  
information recorded on a recording medium loaded in said  
information playback apparatus;

a first comparison step of comparing the  
identification information extracted by the processing in  
the extraction step and the identification information  
whose storage has been controlled by the processing in  
the storage control step with each other;

a third fetching step of fetching a permission  
condition when the identification information extracted  
by the processing in the extraction step and the  
identification information whose storage has been  
controlled by the processing in the storage control step  
coincide with each other;

a second comparison step of comparing the  
permission condition fetched by the processing in the  
third fetching step and the permission condition whose  
storage has been controlled by the processing in the

storage control step with each other; and

a control step of controlling playback of the image information recorded on the recording medium in response to a result of the comparison by the processing in the second comparison step.

5. A recording medium on which a computer-readable program for information playback for an information playback apparatus which plays back an information recording medium on which image information is recorded is recorded, the program comprising:

a first fetching step of fetching identification information used for identification of an information recording medium;

a second fetching step of fetching a permission condition for permitting playback of the image information recorded on an information recording medium;

a storage control step of controlling storage of the identification information fetched by the processing in the first fetching step and the permission condition fetched by the processing in the second fetching step;

an extraction step of extracting the identification information recorded on an information recording medium loaded in said information playback apparatus;

a first comparison step of comparing the

identification information extracted by the processing in the extraction step and the identification information whose storage has been controlled by the processing in the storage control step with each other;

a third fetching step of fetching a permission condition when the identification information extracted by the processing in the extraction step and the identification information whose storage has been controlled by the processing in the storage control step coincide with each other;

a second comparison step of comparing the permission condition fetched by the processing in the third fetching step and the permission condition whose storage has been controlled by the processing in the storage control step with each other; and

a control step of controlling playback of the image information recorded on the information recording medium in response to a result of the comparison by the processing in the second comparison step.